

I saw the bullet holes pierce their flesh  
 I saw the places where they died and their  
 spirits left their bodies onto a heavenly  
 place  
 Far from a war-torn country of our design  
 which orchestrated their demise  
 On the darkened brick walls splashed with  
 stucco  
 Metal bars on windows each home a fortress  
 from the violence that hovers in wait  
 across the thresholds  
 Street vendors who compete for our  
 Starbucks money to feed their souls  
 and nourish their dreams  
 I saw the places they died in the tears behind  
 the eyes of a priest who saw too much  
 Mental memorials to the expressions of  
 horror and sadness on the face of a  
 mother who died trying to save their  
 daughter's life captured in the space  
 between his eyes and the weight of  
 their loss  
 Their state-sanctioned murders designed to  
 leave no witnesses behind  
 Ordered bullets to fillet her face to ensure no  
 viewer could recognize their own moth-  
 er's eyes in her frozen gaze  
 I saw the places where they died, where the  
 children were not spared  
 No life too precious to halt corruption and  
 gang warfare  
 Daily genocides where there are no sacred  
 spaces or sanctuaries in which to hide  
 I saw the places that they died in the cobble-  
 stone streets  
 Where people are pawns in a corruptors  
 endgame  
 The depth of the violence bears no shame  
 I saw the places where they died when I  
 heard the women speak of the terror  
 that they face every day,  
 Every week  
 The normalcy of rape, the dignity decimated,  
 the beatings meant to break and the  
 constant earthquakes that shake the  
 fragile state  
 I saw the places they died in the hopeful  
 smiles of the proud feminists who carry  
 the burdens of their sisters as a shield  
 To protect the dignity of their humanity  
 which too often is forced to yield  
 I saw the places they died, float off into still  
 air  
 Laden with promises unfulfilled and hidden  
 ambitions laid bare  
 I craft petals with poem to form a bouquet  
 dropped off in a history of genocide  
 With the hope the path these roses display  
 will propagate a garden in honor of the  
 many places they died.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRAD CATON

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to MAJ Brad Caton for his exemplary dedication to duty while serving as a Department of Defense congressional fellow and a congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. This month, he will begin his transition to serve as a budgetary analyst in the Army's Budget Office.

As a native of Libby, MT, Brad was commissioned as an infantry officer upon graduation from the University of Montana, where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in business administration. A dedicated scholar, Brad went on to earn his master of business administration from the University of Montana and later a master's degree in legislative affairs from the George

Washington University. Brad has been very successful in his Army career and has served in a broad range of assignments.

His billets have spanned from serving as an infantry platoon commander with the 4th Infantry Division with a deployment to Iraq to assignments managing the Army's financial resources. Brad exemplifies what it means to be a Montanan with his leadership, perseverance, and versatility. This was evident during his first assignment as a budget analyst for U.S. Army Central Command and while he commanded the Pontiac Recruiting Company in Eastern, MI. Following command, Brad continued to display his Montana Resolve as the support operations officer at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea. Additionally, he was deployed to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan while serving as the deputy assistant chief of staff, financial management for the 1st Armored Division.

In 2017, Brad served as my Department of Defense congressional fellow. For a year, I had the privilege of working closely with Brad. He was extremely passionate about serving and representing Montanans. He consistently went above and beyond his immediate responsibilities to work in areas outside of the veterans and defense realm. He used his insight as a Montanan to provide critical local feedback on rural Montana priorities, including Tribal and energy issues. He was always thinking of Montana while representing the Department of Defense in my office. Following his fellowship, Brad transitioned to serve as a congressional budget liaison for the U.S. Army. In this capacity Brad arranged and escorted me over to visit the Montana National Guard while they were deployed to Afghanistan over the holidays. He continued to work tirelessly with all Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. His professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work both as a fellow and as a liaison was outstanding and represented the Department of Defense and U.S. Army to the U.S. Congress well.

The foundation of Brad's military success is his family and his Montana roots. In fact, Brad bought a house in Red Lodge during his fellowship which he hopes to retire to 1 day. He is a devoted husband to his wife, Eryn Beckman of Colstrip, MT, and a committed father to his children, Isabel, Evan, Pierce, and Audrey. Brad and Eryn's attitude of service, sacrifice, and care for others permeates every organization and activity they participate in, and they are truly examples of servant leaders in the Army and their communities.

Throughout his career, Brad has exemplified what it truly means to be a Montanan as he positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously

from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and his invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

It has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with MAJ Brad Caton over the past 3 years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Brad for his service to our country, and we wish him all the best as he continues service in the U.S. Army.

#### TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WHEELER

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise to formally express my appreciation to Mr. Jeremy Wheeler. Jeremy is a congressional relations officer in the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, over the last year, he served as a fellow on my national security and veterans team.

Jeremy has supported my work helping the veterans of Indiana and the Nation using his exceptional knowledge of the Veterans Affairs system and his experience working with many of the veterans service organizations. A dedicated public servant, Jeremy has spent much of the last two decades serving our Nation. He served in the U.S. Army for 6 years, including two combat tours in Iraq in 2003 and 2005. After 5 years working in Hollywood, he returned to government service at the Department of Veterans Affairs and has spent much of this decade working to improve the quality and access to care for our Nation's heroes, establish deeper relationships with veterans service organizations, and strengthen the VA's outreach and communications capabilities.

In my office this year, he has provided valuable insight into how the legislation before this Chamber would be implemented and how it would impact the VA's ability to continue serving our veterans. And perhaps most impressively, I am not sure how many offices on Capitol Hill can boast an Emmy-winning staff member. This is just one of the many unique contributions Jeremy has brought to my office. In the last year, I have continually been impressed with Jeremy's work ethic, professionalism, candor, and knowledge.

Next month, Jeremy will be returning to the VA, where I have no doubt he will continue seeking innovative ways to caring for veterans. I wish him the best in all his endeavors, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Veterans Guest House.